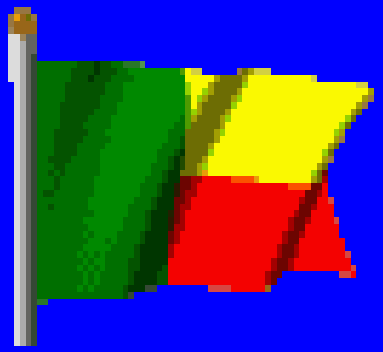
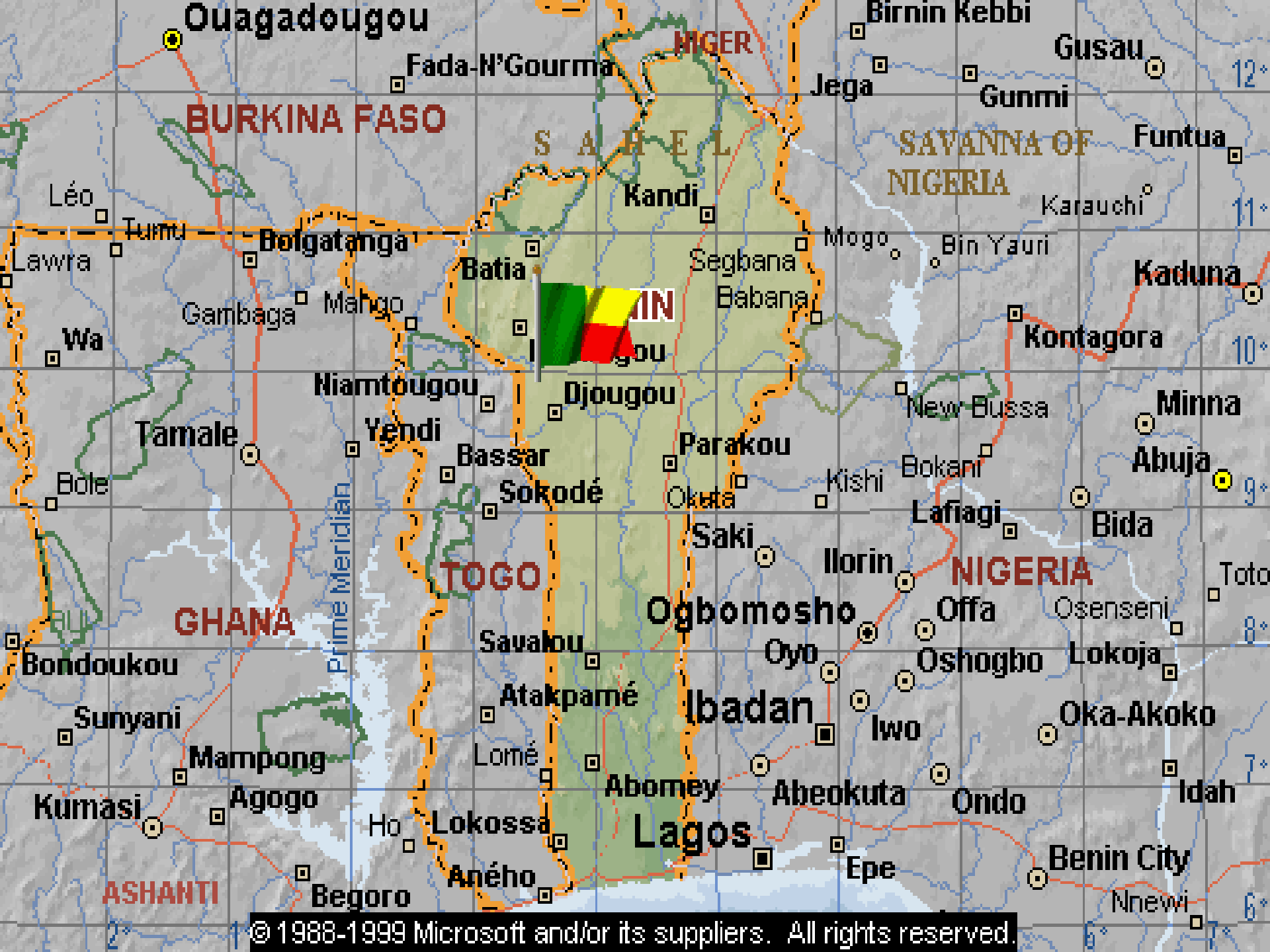
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING



BENIN

(Republique du Benin)



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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Benin

Capital: Porto-Novo

Population: 6,305,567 (est)

Type of government: multiparty democr republic

Head of government: Pres Mathieu Kere

Official language(s) French, Fon, Youru

Economy: technologically advanced market economy

Religions: Indigenous (70%), Islam (15%), Christian (15%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None.

International Airport: Porto Novo/Cotonou

Flights from Frankfurt: None

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address:Rue Caporal Anani Bernard, Cotonou
Tel: 229-300650/301792 FAX: 229-301439/301974

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor.

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Military personnel on leave require passport and visas. Identification cards and orders are required. For official travel, a no-fee passport is required. Passports and visas are required for all travelers. Military personnel on leave do not require clearance or advance notice. Visa application requirements: Visas are required if leaving airport. Visas are valid for 90 days (but traveler can stay only seven days), for a single entry, and are not available

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.

Duty-free entry for personal effects: two cameras, 10 rolls of film, jewelry (reasonable amount), portable typewriter if necessary for work, cigarette lighter, electric razor, record player records, reasonable amount of tobacco, and two quarts

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Tourist facilities are available in Cotonou but are not fully developed elsewhere. The ocean currents along the coast are extremely strong and treacherous (a rough surf and a strong undertow) and result in several drownings each year. Hotel accommodations are limited. The use of cameras, even for tourists, is discouraged. Photography of any military and most public installations is forbidden. No firearms are allowed.

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MONEY

Currency restrictions: Declare currency. There is no limit on imports of foreign currency or traveler's checks. Exports are limited to amount imported less expenses. Imports and exports of CFA francs are limited to 10,000. Exchange may be made at some large hotels but rates are unfavorable. Verbal declaration is required on leaving. Adequate records are required for extensive business transactions involving large sums.

Rate: Approximate: 500 CFA francs for $1.

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HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, schistosomiasis, STDs, and heat injuries.

Availability of medical services: Poor.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Benin. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor

Health Precautions: Benin is considered a cholera-infected area. Yellow fever vaccination required of all travelers over one year of age. Has chloroquine resistant malraia.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, MMR, typhoid, influenza, yellow fever, meningococcal vaccine and TD.

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FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Benin. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Boil water or purify with tablets. Use canned or dried milk. Wash fruits and vegetables with disinfectant. Only cooked foods are recommended. Eat recommended places. Antimalarial drugs and mosquito nets are recommended. U.S. citizens should avoid crowds, political rallies, and street demonstrations and maintain security awareness at all times. Travelers should exercise caution when traveling in Benin as the roads range from fair to very poor. Travel at night, especially outside of population centers, poses a risk principally because of poor road conditions. There are paved roads in Cotonou, along the coast and one paved road north to Niger. Other roads are hard packed sand. All roads, paved or not, are pot-holed and narrow. Motorcycle traffic is very heavy

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Street crime, especially within Cotonou, continues to rise. Most robberies and muggings occur along the Marina Boulevard and the beach near the hotels frequented by international visitors. Some of the reported incidents involve the use of force, often by armed persons, with occasional minor injury to the victim. Isolated areas are best avoided. Business fraud stemming from Nigerian scam operations targets foreigners, including Americans, and poses a danger of financial loss and physical harm. Persons contemplating business deals in Benin with individuals promoting investment in Nigeria, especially the Central Bank of Nigeria or the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, are strongly urged to check with the U.S. Department of Commerce or the U.S. Department of State before providing any information, making financial commitments, or traveling

Benin is strict on: Drugs and firearms.

reported immediately to the local police and to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

Owen Franken/Stock, Boston/PNI

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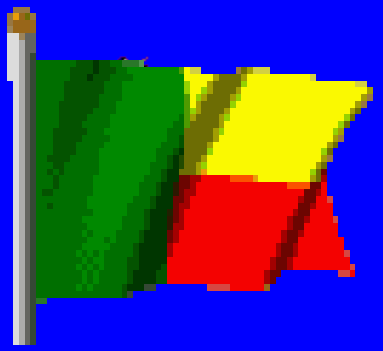
CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Civilian clothing is recommended. The coolest clothing possible is recommended. Lightweight fall clothing is needed for cool evenings.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for



BENIN